Junk Brake Vans on Passenger Trains

2870. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Railways are planning to junk the brake vans on passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed move and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternatives are being a contemplated to cater to the end-to-end movement of parcels, including newspapers and perishables, and ensure an assured delivery thereof on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

S&T Programmes in Manipur

2871. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds sanctioned for taking up science and technology programmes in Manipur for 2001-2002;

(b) the measures taken for development of science and technology in rural areas there; and

(c) the details of programmes of the other North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) The total amount of funds sacntioned so far for taking up science and technology programmes in Manipur for 2001-2002 is Rs. 234.79 lakh. In addition, Rs. 17 crores have been allocated to Central Agricultural University, Imphal for the agricultural research and education for 2001-2002.

(b) The Government is implemeating a number of programmes in various fields such as vermincomposting, sericulture,